

New law provides relative to the Louisiana Health Care Commission as follows:

- (1) Existing law provides that the commission shall study the availability and affordability of health care in the state. Specifically charges the commission with examining: the rising costs of health care in the state; the formation and implementation of health insurance pools; and implementation issues related to national health care reform initiatives.

New law additionally provides that the commission shall examine the adequacy of consumer protections. Further requires submission of its recommendations on these matters to the commissioner of insurance. Deletes prior law requiring the commission to forward recommendations to the commissioner regarding individual health insurance reform, medical savings accounts, and a universal health care access program for the state's citizens.

- (2) Prior law required the commission to submit an annual report with recommendations to the commissioner of insurance prior to each regular session.

New law requires the commissioner to submit an annual report on health care and health insurance, taking into consideration the recommendations, actions, and studies of the commission, to the legislature prior to each regular session.

- (3) Prior law provided that the commission was to be composed of 44 members, most of whom were to be appointed by the commissioner of insurance from nominations by various organizations.

New law provides for a 45-member commission. Deletes the members to be appointed from nominations by the following: the La. Consumers League, the Consumers Coalition for Realistic Insurance, Inc., the Northwest La. Health Care Conference, the Greater Baton Rouge Health Care Alliance, the Business Coalition on Health, the La. Board of Chiropractic Examiners, and a domestic commercial health insurer. Instead provides for appointments from nominations from the following: the Agenda for Children, the Home Options Mission for Elders Coalition, the Imperial Calcasieu Health Care Alliance, the La. Health Care Alliance, the La. Pharmacists Association, the Chiropractic Association of La., a domestic commercial health insurance issuer and the La. Optometry Association. Additionally provides that the chairman and vice chairman of the commission shall serve terms of two years. Otherwise retains prior law on commission membership.

- (4) Prior law provided that a majority of the members of the commission constituted a quorum for the transaction of business and that all official actions of the commission required the affirmative vote of a majority of its members present and voting.

New law provides that a quorum of the commission shall be defined by its bylaws and all official actions of the commission shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

- (5) New law deletes prior law prohibiting the commission from meeting more than 12 times in a calendar year.
- (6) Prior law reestablished the commission as of June 30, 1995, and

provided that the terms of the new members of the commission began on July 1, 1995. Further provided that the commission would cease to exist on June 30, 1999.

New law deletes prior law and provides that members of the commission shall serve two-year terms beginning July 1, 1999. Further provides for placement of the commission in the Dept. of Insurance as a policymaking agency and provides that it shall continue to appoint its own director and assistant director subject to the approval of the commissioner of insurance.

Effective July 1, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 22:9(A)(1)(intro. para.), (h), (i), (k), (l), (m), (v), and (w), (2), (6), and (7), (B), and (C) and R.S. 36:686; Adds R.S. 22:9(A)(1)(gg) and R.S. 36:802.16)